

Preface

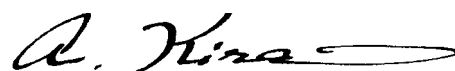
In 2005, the ratio of industrial use exceeded 20% for the first time. This ratio is outstanding among the major synchrotron radiation facilities in the world. The contribution to the industry was a central promise to the Government and industries in the planning and construction stages of SPring-8. By the way, a remarkable feature of the industrial use at SPring-8 is that it is not dominated by the pharmaceutical industry as is in other facilities but it covers broad categories of industries: electronics, materials, automobile, etc.

The top-up operation of the machine started in 2005 as mentioned in Beam Performance section of this issue. We believe that it brought big merits to the users, especially to the advanced users. Everybody seems to be satisfied: neither complaints nor claims have been submitted.

SPring-8 has resumed the planning of new beamlines for which the Ring has 13 vacancies. SPring-8 is still the unique machine for the frontier research although it is 9 years old. It is still an important task of SPring-8 to explore the leading edge of synchrotron radiation sciences. Considering that the number of mid-sized facilities suitable to the common analysis is increasing, SPring-8 should be conscious of the utilization that fits the unique high-end properties of SPring-8.

A next-generation machine at a site of SPring-8 will be a SASE XFEL* which RIKEN is developing in cooperation with JASRI. The report of this FEL project is included in the Research Frontiers from this issue. In future, we will have both the Ring and the FEL, which will be managed in common.

*Self-Amplified-Spontaneous-Emission Free-Electron Laser



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